

October 2, 2003

Prisoners are occasionally executed in front of crowds in fields or stadiums.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE
CARON FOUNDATION

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Caron Foundation is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide an enlightened and caring treatment community in which all those affected by alcoholism or other drug addiction may begin a new life.

The great work of this organization began when Richard J. Caron, an industrialist and recovering alcoholic from Reading, PA, and his wife Catherine, spent hours in their home "chit chatting" with people who came to them for help.

Dick published a newsletter, which he called Chit Chat, to reach out to others who needed support and an encouraging word. In 1957, after years of opening their home to those needing a guiding hand in recovery, they established a halfway house. Before long, this too proved to be inadequate to accommodate the many individuals who sought their counsel.

In 1959, the Carons purchased a historic resort hotel on South Mountain in Wernersville, PA, and opened Chit Chat Farms—a facility that has gained an international reputation for excellence as one of the first and foremost chemical dependency treatment centers in the United States.

Now in its fifth decade of providing quality services, Caron offers a full spectrum of gender-specific chemical dependency treatment programs to meet the needs of everyone—from adolescents to seniors. Today, the Caron Foundation, rooted in the "Chit Chat" tradition, stands as a beacon of hope to individuals and families whose lives have become unmanageable because of chemical dependency.

The Caron Foundation, one of the Nation's oldest and largest not-for-profit chemical dependency treatment providers, is located in a serene mountain setting in Berks County, PA. The Foundation is nearing completion of a 4-year \$16 million master campus improvement and renovation project. This facility will enable Caron Foundation to continue to serve thousands in need of help.

On Sunday, October 19, 2003, the Foundation will host an official campus dedication ceremony, appropriately themed, A Celebration of Growth and Change. John Schwarzlose, President and CEO of the Betty Ford Center will be the keynote speaker; among the honored guests will be the well-known philanthropist, Mrs. Leonore Annenberg.

This celebration will allow Caron's Board of Directors and leaders to recognize the many donors whose generosity and support made this project possible.

It will also provide Caron with an opportunity to showcase the newly constructed buildings, as well as the beautifully restored historic buildings that have been part of Caron's history for more than 45 years.

It's time that we pay proper tribute to the people and organizations that make such a profound difference in the lives of people in

desperate need to hope. The Caron Foundation has given so many the opportunities to make a new choice and start a new life.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, commemorating the extraordinary contributions that Hispanic-Americans have made to our country throughout history. During this one-month period of celebration and tribute, we honor the culture and achievements of the Hispanic community, all of which have played a historic role in our Nation.

I am proud, honored and privileged to represent a region in Congress that is extraordinarily diverse and home to many citizens who are of Hispanic heritage. To commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month, I would like to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of an organization in my district committed to serving its neighbors.

Founded in 1946, La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center is a family community ministry serving 5,800 clients per year, ranging from infants to the elderly. La Casa is unique in that it is a centrally located facility addressing the multicultural needs and interests of its diverse community—primarily Hispanic and Native American working poor—in their efforts to overcome the barriers of underemployment, poverty, inadequate housing, limited education, and lack of medical care. These efforts on behalf of the community have been extraordinary.

Today, with an estimated Hispanic population of over 38 million in our country, we must also recognize that our efforts to commemorate Hispanic culture should not be limited merely to a one-month period.

In addition to recognizing great accomplishments, we must also demonstrate our commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity for all Americans. Specifically, we must ensure that educational resources are readily available to all Americans. Since the future of our children is perhaps one of our most vital priorities, educational programs such as Head Start need to be supported and funded, rather than cut from our minority communities. We must also support economic empowerment and provide economic security for all Americans and work to ensure access to health care for the uninsured and underserved.

Cesar Chavez once said, "We need to help students and parents cherish and preserve the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens this community and this Nation." As we reflect on Mr. Chavez's words and on this month of festivities and celebrations to honor Hispanic-Americans, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to civil rights for all Americans and promote increased representation in Government from all facets of our diverse country.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Wayne Public Library, which this year celebrates its 80th anniversary of service to the people of Wayne, Michigan.

Founded in June, 1923, and tucked within the Morrison and John Shoe Store on Michigan Avenue, the library was run by Ms. Emma John, the shoe store owner's daughter, who lent out the initial stock of 500 volumes to some 886 registered patrons in-between waiting on shoe customers.

My, how times—and shoe styles—have changed.

Today, the Wayne Public Library operates in a state-of-the-art facility of 24,000 square feet, which houses both Adults' and Children's reading rooms; meeting rooms; reference services; and numerous special events and classes for the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking the Wayne Public Library for their 80 years of outstanding service to the people of Wayne, Michigan.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
WEEK 2003

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mental Health Awareness Week. With the Census Bureau reporting yesterday that the number of people without health insurance shot up last year by 2.4 million, the largest increase in a decade, raising the total to 43.6 million, showing there is no hiding that our Nation is facing a health crisis. The reason behind this remarkable increase has been blamed on soaring health costs and many workers losing coverage provided by their employers. Although it is usually a misconception that those who are uninsured are also unemployed, the number of full-time workers without health insurance rose by 897,000 last year, to 19.9 million. Among people living in poverty, 49 percent of those worked full-time were uninsured. Beside a lack of information and education about mental illness, being uninsured plays a significant role on whether an individual reaches out for help or even receives treatment.

In our Nation, one percent of the population has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, one percent has been diagnosed with manic depression and between 5–10 percent of Americans will experience at least one episode of major depression. This gives us a base number of about 14–24 million individuals. If you add in the millions who suffer with panic attacks or Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, and include the more than four million who suffer with dementing illnesses, such as Alzheimer's Disease. Then if we include substance abuse and other addictive disorders, we reach a number that includes a quarter to a third of the American public who suffers with some form

of mental illness. During any one year period, up to 50 million Americans, more than 22 percent, will suffer from a clearly diagnosable mental disorder. These numbers demonstrate the need for mental health care and coverage. Yet, instead, services are disappearing and many, specifically minorities, are backing away from the services that still remain.

Minorities in America face severe economic, cultural, linguistic and physical barriers for treatment of mental illness. According to a report from the U.S. Public Health Service, these difficulties prevent thousands from being properly treated. The study explains that minorities are no more likely than whites to suffer from mental illnesses. However factors often keep African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Native Hawaiians, and Asian Americans from getting the help they need and when they do, the treatment may be substandard or too late.

For Asian Americans, studies have shown that they underutilize mental health services much more than other populations. The National Research Center found that Asians were underrepresented in the outpatient system, and they were more likely than African Americans, Whites, and Hispanics to have psychotic disorders. Although overall rates of mental illness among Hispanics roughly equal that of whites, young Hispanics have higher rates of depression, anxiety disorders, and suicide. The study also found that Hispanics born in the United States are more likely to suffer from mental illness than those born in Mexico or living in Puerto Rico. With African Americans being overrepresented in populations at high risk for developing mental illness—namely, the homeless, prisoners and children in foster care—the need for mental health treatment is generally higher. All three of these particular cultures have stigmas attached to mental illness along with social battles preventing treatment from being obtained. Even research on the mental health of minorities is sparse considering it was only in 1994 when the National Institute of Health started to require that its funded studies include minorities and that studies indicate a subject's race.

The research that does exist is startling. About 25% of African Americans do not have health insurance and many who do are more likely to receive care from a primary health provider rather than a mental health specialist or end up in the emergency room looking for help. As I mentioned, African Americans are over-represented in high-need populations that are particularly at risk for mental illnesses. One population group is the homeless, of which African Americans make up about 40% of the homeless population. Another is the prison population that is comprised of nearly half of all prisoners in State and Federal jurisdictions and almost 40% of juveniles in legal custody are African American. African American children and youth constitute about 45% of children in public foster care and more than half are waiting to be adopted. African Americans are also more likely to be victims of serious violent crime. One study reported that over 25% of African American youth exposed to violence met diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder. When compared to whites who exhibit the same symptoms, African Americans tend to be diagnosed more frequently with schizophrenia and less frequently with affective disorders. In addition, one study found that 27% of blacks compared to 44% of

whites receive antidepressant medication. Moreover, the newer SSRI medications that have fewer side effects are prescribed less often to African Americans than to whites. And while the rate of bipolar disorder is the same among African Americans as it is among other Americans, African Americans are less likely to receive a diagnosis and, therefore, treatment for this illness.

One of the high-risk populations that overly effect the African American population, the prison population, is of an extreme concern of mine. This year an estimated 600,000 exoffenders will be reentering communities across the nation. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, about 283,000 people who are incarcerated on any given day in the United States are known to have a mental illness, with almost 550,000 others on probation. The rate of mental illness in the jailed population is four times greater than that in the general population. The Cook County Jail in Chicago has become, by default, the largest psychiatric facility in the state of Illinois. At least 10% of the Facility's 10,000 detainees are on psychiatric medications. Because the jail is overcrowded, prisoners must be released every day, whether they are ready or not, to make room for new arrivals. Unfortunately, our prison system's purpose is social control, not treatment. This means most of the detainees who have a mental illness are released with just a prescription and the address of a mental health facility and receive very little follow-up.

Mr. Speaker, we have made much progress in mental health awareness—we are talking about it today, which would have been unheard of 15 years ago. But we have so much to do. In our recent budget crisis, states are cutting mental health funding first and not realizing the cost it will be on our society later. Education and breaking down misconceptions that many cultures face need to be improved. We need to ensure that our citizens are receiving the help they need by providing equal mental health services to all.

HONORING HUGH LEE "H.L."
CULBREATH, JR.

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Hugh Lee "H.L." Culbreath Jr., one of Tampa Bay's most influential and charitable business leaders. H.L.'s passing last weekend is a tremendous loss for our entire community.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, H.L. served our country in the Navy for 10 years. His final assignment was as a staff member to President Dwight Eisenhower at the White House and as officer in charge of Camp David.

In 1957, H.L. returned to his native Tampa to begin working for TECO Energy. Over the course of his 40 years of dedicated service to TECO, H.L. worked his way up the ladder to become chief executive officer and chairman of the board. Along the way, H.L. instilled in TECO the idea that giving back to the community is good for business.

H.L.'s contributions, civic activities and honors are countless, but his life long endeavor to

improve the quality of life for Tampa Bay residents and bolster our city's reputation is clear. In an effort to enrich downtown Tampa, he fought to establish the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center and served as its inaugural chairman and trustee. H.L. fought to bring a National Football League franchise to Tampa, and our Buccaneers justifiably rewarded him for his efforts by winning the Super Bowl this year.

H.L. served as chairman of the Board of Governors of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the Committee of One Hundred, a member of the Mayor's Downtown Advisory Committee, a board member and chairman of the Hillsborough County Hospital Authority, a member of the Florida Council of 100, which gave him the Hall of Fame award. He was active in the United Way and honored for his contributions to Boy Scouting by the Explorers of the Boy Scouts of America, Gulf Ridge Council. The Tampa Civitan Club named H.L. Citizen of the Year in 1979 and the Hillsborough County Bar Association gave him a Liberty Bell award, in recognition of his community service.

H.L. personified the attributes of leadership and service to an exemplary level, rarely seen in our community. For members of the Tampa Bay community, H.L.'s impact is as far as the eye can see and will endure for countless generations. On behalf of our community, I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COLE
WOOD—A 6TH GRADER WHO UN-
DERSTANDS FREEDOM

HON. MARIAN BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cole Wood, a young man whose definition of freedom won him the "Spring 2003 Essay Contest" at the Sixth Grade Academic Center in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, when Cole Wood was asked to define the word freedom for the essay contest he chose to focus on the Bill of Rights, the Constitution and, "the great presidents that have brought this nation through times of thick and thin."

Freedom, for so many Americans, is still taken for granted. While Mr. Cole's essay rightfully draws our attention to the founding father's legacy, it should also call to mind those men and women who have fought so bravely to ensure that our freedom endures. More importantly, it should evoke our sense of duty to those veterans and remind us that they deserve our support as well as our respect.

Mr. Wood also recalled the tragedy of September 11th as he described the meaning of freedom: "At first I was scared, but when I saw all the people donating and sticking together, I didn't feel sad anymore, I felt proud and strong. I was proud to be an American, proud to know I was free."

That pride is what makes this country great. It is the pride that inspires young people like Mr. Wood to be responsible leaders of our nation. It is the pride that should infect every decision we make as elected representatives.